

**Section:** PROGRAM  
**Topic:** Rob Plunkett Law Enforcement Torch Run Award  
**Effective Date:** June 2008  
**Revised Date:** May 2023

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This Award is made available by Special Olympics Canada for presentation to a Law Enforcement Torch Run representative who best exemplifies the spirit, philosophy, dedication and goals of the Law Enforcement Torch Run and the Special Olympics movement.

This national award has been named in memory of Detective Constable Robert Plunkett who lost his life in the line of duty in August of 2007. Detective Constable Robert Plunkett, a 22-year veteran of York Regional Police, was a leader in both the community and the Special Olympics organization. Detective Constable Rob Plunkett was an outstanding sportsman, police officer, family man and exemplary Law Enforcement Torch runner.

Rob was involved with the Law Enforcement Torch Run for over 15 years from the grassroots to the international level. Rob started as a runner, then transitioned to a Local Coordinator and soon he became the York Regional Coordinator. Rob took his leadership skills and applied them in his role as a Law Enforcement Torch Run Route Coordinator and Zone Co-coordinator for the Province of Ontario. In 1997, Rob was the Co-Director of the Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg for the 1997 Special Olympics World Winter Games (Toronto/Collingwood, Ontario). The Final Leg included over 100 law enforcement personnel from over 60 countries. This role inspired him and through his long standing support of Special Olympics, he also served as the Chairman of the 2000 Special Olympics Ontario Provincial Games. Through his leadership, \$1.7 million was raised for the Special Olympic Games leaving a lasting legacy in his community. In addition, as a result of his devotion and support, the Law Enforcement Torch Run has grown significantly raising funds and awareness for athletes with an intellectual disability.

Like Detective Constable Rob Plunkett, the nominee will have contributed significantly to the development, awareness and financial success of Law Enforcement Torch Run programs in Canada. This national Rob Plunkett Law Enforcement Torch Run Award has been developed to recognize the tremendous contribution by the law enforcement community to the awareness and financial stability of Special Olympics in Canada.

Please be advised that in order to maintain the integrity of this Award, and the individual that it represents, the Rob Plunkett Law Enforcement Torch Run Award will only be presented if the nominations submitted are deemed suitable by the National Law

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Enforcement Torch Run Advisory Committee and the Special Olympics Canada Board of Directors. Therefore, this Award may not be issued annually.

### **NOMINATIONS**

Any constituent group may nominate a Law Enforcement Torch Run representative. Please note that both law enforcement personnel volunteers and civilian volunteers may be nominated.

Nominations forwarded:

1. By a Law Enforcement Torch Run representative must be endorsed by the respective Chapter Special Olympics Office or at least one Provincial/Territorial Board Member.
2. By a Special Olympics Chapter or Provincial/Territorial Board Member must be endorsed by the respective Office and at least one Provincial/Territorial Board Member.
3. By a member of the Special Olympics' Canada Board of Directors must be endorsed by at least one other National Board Member and a LETR Chapter representative.
4. By a member of the National Law Enforcement Torch Run Advisory Committee must be endorsed by at least one member of the Special Olympics' Canada Board of Directors and a LETR Chapter representative to be eligible for consideration.
5. By the Law Enforcement Torch Run Canadian Co-coordinator must be endorsed by at least one other National Board Member and a LETR Chapter representative.
6. From another source must be endorsed by at least one member of the Special Olympics' Canada Board of Directors and a LETR Chapter representative to be eligible for consideration.

Nominations will be reviewed and selected by the National Law Enforcement Torch Run Advisory Committee and then submitted to the Special Olympics Canada Board of Directors for final endorsement.

At the discretion of the LETR Committee, nominations may be kept on file at SOC and considered in the year in which they are submitted, as well as the following 2 years. Every year, SOC will check with the nominators of any carryover nominations to see if they would still like the nomination to be considered.

**Nominations must be accompanied by a Nomination Form, one (1) letter of reference, and a passport size photo.** Nominations must be forwarded to Special Olympics Canada by **JULY 7, 2023.** The letter of reference must be written by someone other than the nominator (this includes all SO staff members) but can be endorsed and/or signed by multiple individuals. If SO staff members wish to provide feedback on a nominee this should be done on the nomination form itself.

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## **AWARD CRITERIA**

To be considered for this Award:

1. The nominee has made a significant lifetime contribution to the Law Enforcement Torch Run.
2. The nominee is well known and highly regarded within their Law Enforcement Torch Run program; Special Olympics Chapter and/or across Canada.
3. The nominee has illustrated strong leadership in developing a strong and sustainable Law Enforcement Torch Run program in their Chapter and/or throughout Canada and has made an outstanding contribution in one or more of the following areas: awareness; fundraising; Final Leg; Major Games; new initiatives; truck convoy; polar bear plunge, etc.
4. The nominee is dedicated to the Law Enforcement Torch Run program and the Special Olympics movement and displays characteristics of integrity and exemplary personal conduct.
5. Current Special Olympics Staff, at the National and/or Chapter, Regional and Community level are not eligible for nomination. A former staff can only be nominated starting 12 months after the termination of their staff position tenure. If a former staff member is nominated, this individual will be considered based only on their contributions prior to and/or following the termination of their employment by Special Olympics.
6. Current Provincial/Territorial and SOC Board Members are not eligible for nomination. Former Provincial/Territorial and SOC Board Members can only be nominated starting 12 months after the termination of their Board tenure.
7. The LETR Committee will use discretion to deal with exceptions to the award criteria as they arise.

## **ADDITIONAL NOTE**

- Current Special Olympics Staff, at the National and/or Chapter, Regional and Community level are not eligible for nomination. A former staff can only be nominated starting 12 months after the termination of their staff position tenure. If a former staff member is nominated, this individual will be considered based only on their contributions prior to and/or following the termination of their employment by Special Olympics.
- Current Provincial/Territorial and SOC Board Members are not eligible for nomination. Former Provincial/Territorial and SOC Board Members can only be nominated starting 12 months after the termination of their Board tenure.
- This award will be presented to the recipients virtually at the Special Olympics Canada Awards evening.

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**AWARD RECOGNITION**

This award will be presented to the recipients virtually at the Special Olympics Canada Awards Evening.

**NOMINATION FORM:**

*To be completed by a Special Olympics Chapter Office Representative, Law Enforcement Torch Run Representative; Special Olympics Canada Board Member, or other.*

Nominee's Name: _____	
Address: _____	
City: _____	Postal Code: _____
Telephone Number: (H) _____	(B) _____
Email _____	

**Please state three (3) reasons why the nominee is deserving of this award.**

- i) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ii) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- iii) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Number of years the nominee has been involved in the Law Enforcement Torch Run:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In what area(s) has the nominee contributed to the Law Enforcement Torch Run and Special Olympics?**

- Awareness
- Fundraising
- Final Leg
- Major Games
- New Initiatives
- Truck Convoy
- Polar Bear Plunge

**1. How has the nominee's contribution(s) assisted in the development, awareness and financial success of the Law Enforcement Torch Run program?**

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2. How does the nominee exemplify the spirit, philosophy and goals of Law Enforcement Torch Run in Canada?

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Please complete the Nomination Form, attach one (1) letters of reference AND enclose a passport size photo, and submit to Special Olympics Canada by JULY 7, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Endorsed By (Chapter Representative)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter Office (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Endorsed By (SOC Director)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Endorsed By (National Law Enforcement Torch Run Advisory Committee)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please forward submission to:

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS CANADA**  
21 St. Clair Avenue East, Suite 600  
Toronto, Ontario M4T 1L9  
TEL: 416-927-9050  
[awards@specialolympics.ca](mailto:awards@specialolympics.ca)